

ECON 202
Principles of Macroeconomics

Spring 2012
Yamin S. Ahmad

Professor Information

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Office Hours

Walk in: M/W 10:00am – 11am and 1:00pm – 3:00pm; Email: W 3:00pm – 5:00pm; and by appointment.

Supplemental Instructor (SI) / Teaching Assistant Information

The teaching assistant for the course is Jason Hartwig.

You can contact him at: HartwigJC12@uww.edu

Course Web Page: <http://facstaff.uww.edu/ahmady/courses/econ202/>

This is the web page for the course. Here you can find the course schedule, problem sets, practice exams, and more.

Prerequisites

ECON 201 – Principles of Microeconomics

Required Resources

1. Aplia: Problem sets and exercises will be conducted using the web site <http://www.aplia.com>. Students are required to register there for this course and the cost is \$40.00. Students should use the following code to register: **XWZR-7TK5-FPZC**

Instructions on registering are provided in greater detail, later in the syllabus.

2. Text: Krugman, P. and Wells, R. (2009), Macroeconomics, 2nd edition, Worth. ISBN: 978-0-7167-7161-6
3. The Course Homepage: <http://facstaff.uww.edu/ahmady/courses/econ202/>

Course Description Objectives and Assessment

This course is an introduction to macroeconomic analysis and its application. The operation of the modern market economy is examined to provide an understanding of how the composition, size and distribution of national output are determined. Monetary and fiscal policy and international finance and economic growth are included. In covering these topics the following will be emphasized: *the development of analytical techniques; the role of the global economy; and the assessment of macroeconomic (monetary and fiscal) policy.*

In order to assess student performance on the course, questions on the exams (as well as the homework exercises and class experiments) will examine your knowledge of course

materials, your ability to utilize analytical techniques to better understand the topics, as well as assess competency in the following areas:

1. ***Are students globally aware?*** - The objective within the class will be to understand the implications of different international markets, institutions and exchange rates. The following two traits will be assessed:
 - i. Be able to research and recognize the differences in markets across countries.
 - ii. Describe how fluctuations in exchange rates will affect an economy's or firms international operations, e.g. imports, exports, labor costs etc.

2. ***Are students Analytical?*** - The objective in class is to be able to apply mathematical concepts to interpret business and economic phenomena. The following two traits will be assessed:
 - i. Being told how Y affects X and how X affects Z, to demonstrate:
 - The effect Y has on Z
 - How changes in the relationship between Y and X changes the relationship between Y and Z
 - How changes in the relationship between X and Z changes the relationship between Y and Z
 - ii. Explain how a graph represents data.

Performance on the course is measured and assessed through multiple choice and short answer questions in exams.

Course Requirements and Grading

The requirements for this course are weekly homework problem sets, on-line experiments, two midterm exams (in class), and one final exam. Each of the midterms and the final exam will be cumulative, so you can expect them to cover materials from the course up to the date of the exam. A part of the final exam will contain questions that will be common across all sections, and these will be written by a committee consisting of all professors teaching Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 202).

There will be two grading schemes, in order to minimize the impact of a poor performance on any one assignment. I will use whichever scheme yields the highest grade for each student.

1. Each midterm is worth 25% of your overall grade, the final exam is worth 35%, and homework and experiments account for the remaining 15%.
2. Alternatively, I will drop the lowest midterm score, count the remaining midterm as 35%, and the final exam as 50%. (Again, homework and experiments are 15%.)

Note: Under either scenario, I will drop your two lowest homework or experiment scores. Optional **Extra Credit** Assignments will be posted later on during the course of the semester and these can be used to further replace low scoring problem sets.

Problem sets will be assigned and due every week. Practice problems will be posted, along with graded problem sets. Refer to the subsection "Aplia Assignments", under *Instructions For Registering On The Aplia Website*, later in the syllabus.

Warnings: The midterms will be given in class. If you miss a midterm, for any reason, grading scheme (2) will be invoked. There will be no make up midterms. Late homework will not be accepted, graded, or counted. This schedule is not flexible at all, so it is your responsibility to make sure that you can attend all exams.

Please note that whilst students are encouraged to work together on the homework, each student is expected to submit an individual answer, in his or her own words. Generating ideas for homework solutions can be done in collaboration with others; communicating those ideas in the form of your homework submissions must be done individually.

A Note on Letter Grades: Students often worry about what grade they got on a midterm. *Each individual quiz or exam is not assigned a letter grade* because there isn't a direct correspondence between a score on any individual exam and a letter grade because of the grading scheme. *The grade you get for the course* is the outcome of the grading schemes above which award you the higher score.

However, since students worry about letter grades, *an approximation* of letter grades on any particular exam could be categorized as follows:

A:	>=86	C+:	66-69
A-:	82-85	C:	62-65
B+:	78-81	C-:	56-61
B:	74-77	D:	50-55
B-:	70-73	F:	<50

Please note that these are only approximate because in implementing this type of grading method, I am trying to provide students with a certain degree of flexibility in case they don't perform well on any particular day, e.g. due to stress, or other outside influences, etc. In addition, I typically apply a "curve" to the scores at the end of the semester in order to account for things like the length and difficulty of exams etc.

Attendance Policy

Enrollment in this course is taken as a commitment from you that you have made room in your life to fulfill the obligations of this course - coming to class, being there for exams when they are scheduled, etc. I will not record attendance, but you will find yourself at a significant disadvantage if you miss class. **It is the student's responsibility to obtain any materials or information missed due to absence.**

Advice

Homework assignments count for 15% of the grade and you can be sure that midterm and final exam questions will require a thorough understanding of questions in the homework assignments.

Due to the flexibility of the grading scheme, students can skip two problem sets, and one midterm and still score well. However, I would not recommend attempting to do so. Taking the second midterm or completing the last problem set cannot hurt your grade, and you might learn something.

In addition, I would encourage you to use Jason Hartwig as a resource. This course has been designated as a SI (supplemental instruction) course, which is what allows Jason to be a teaching assistant for the course. Take advantage of his instructional hours and his knowledge of the material. He can advise you and give you tips on how to do well in this course.

Policy Statement

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduate and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding Special Accommodations, Misconduct, Religious Beliefs Accommodation, Discrimination and Absence for University Sponsored Events. (For details please refer to the Undergraduate and Graduate Timetables; the “Rights and Responsibilities” section of the Undergraduate Bulletin; the Academic Requirements and Policies and the Facilities and Services sections of the Graduate Bulletin; and the “Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures” [UWS Chapter 14]; and the “Student Nonacademic Disciplinary Procedures” [UWS Chapter 17].

UWW Student Honor Code

As members of the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater College of Business & Economics community, we commit ourselves to act honestly, responsibly, and above all, with honor and integrity in all areas of campus life. We are accountable for all that we say and write. We are responsible for the academic integrity of our work. We pledge that we will not misrepresent our work nor give or receive unauthorized aid. We commit ourselves to behave in a manner that demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights and freedoms of all members of the community. We are respectful of college property and the property of others. We will not tolerate a lack of respect for these values.

This code originated at Wheaton College.

Course Outline

This course outline is tentative and I reserve the right to amend the schedule as I see fit. These changes will be announced in class and posted on the course webpage. We will cover as many topics as time permits, which in turn will depend on the pace of the class.

	Topic	Chapters in Krugman and Wells
1	Introduction	Skim Chp 1 – 4; 6
2	Measuring Economic Aggregates	6 – 8
3	Aggregate Expenditures and Income	11
4	Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	12
5	Savings and Investment	10
6	Fiscal Policy	13
7	Monetary Policy	15
8	Exchange Rates and Foreign Exchange	18

Exam Schedule

This is the exam schedule. All exams will be held in the regularly scheduled rooms, unless otherwise noted.

Midterm I will be tentatively held on Wednesday, February 22nd in class.

Midterm II will be tentatively held on Wednesday, March 21st in class.

The final exam schedule will be on: Monday, May 7th, in the regularly scheduled room between: 10:00am – 12:00pm.

Note: Although the dates of the midterm exams are tentative, the date of the final exam is fixed. It is your responsibility to make sure that you can attend all exams.

Instructions For Registering On The Aplia Website



Weekly homework assignments are found on the Aplia website. These assignments will collectively count for **15%** of your grade. The Aplia site requires a separate registration process. Here are the steps for registering:

Registration Instructions

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com> .
2. Click the System Configuration Test link below the Sign In and Register sections to make sure you can access all of the features on Aplia's website. This takes just a few seconds and tells you how to update your browser settings if necessary.
3. Return to <http://www.aplia.com> .
 - If you have never used Aplia before, click the New Student button to register and follow the registration instructions.
 - If you have used Aplia before, sign in with your usual e-mail address and password. If you are not prompted for a new Course Key, click the Enter Course Key button to enroll in a new Aplia course.
4. During registration, enter your course key for our course: Section 02 TR 9:30am: **XWZR-7TK5-FPZC**
5. If you understand your payment options, pay now. Otherwise, postpone your purchase decision by choosing the option to pay later. Your payment grace period ends at midnight on 02/06/2012.

You will only need to register once. After the registration process is complete, you will not need to enter the course key again. For technical problems or problems signing in, please send Aplia an e-mail by clicking on the "Help" link in the upper-right corner of any page or by e-mailing support@aplia.com.

Student benefits: By completing regular work in association with the lectures, you will better prepare yourself for the lectures and exams in the course. Cramming is not an effective method of learning. Think of the regular assignments on Aplia as a weekly Economics workout. Practicing and applying what you are learning from Aplia and lecture will better prepare you for class.

Aplia assignments: Many assignments come in pairs of practice and graded problem sets. The practice sets give you immediate feedback about whether your answer is right or wrong and an

explanation of the correct answer. They are not counted as part of your homework grade. Use them to check your understanding of the material. If you are confident, you can go directly to the graded problem set, and refer back to the practice set only if you want some additional help.

The graded problem sets have a firm due date. You can change your answers as many times as you like before the due date has passed. Once the due date has passed, the grade will be recorded and it will not be possible to change your answers or complete the assignment at this point. In other words, Aplia assignments must be completed by the due date. The software does not care whether you have an excuse or not. **These assignments are posted weeks in advance. Do them early to avoid any emergencies preventing your completion before the due date.** After the due date, you will be able to see the correct answers and the explanations for graded problems.

The cost of Aplia is **\$40** per student for this class for the semester. You may register and use the website until **2/6/2012** without paying the fee. If you are considering dropping this course during the drop/add period, do not make a payment until you are sure. You will need to pay the full amount before the end of the grace period to continue using the site. You may pay online with a credit card or personal check, or you can mail a check or money order to the address provided on the Aplia site.

If you have questions about registering or using the Aplia website, please contact Aplia by clicking the Aplia Support link at the bottom of any Aplia page or by e-mailing support@aplia.com. You will receive a response in one business day.

Disclaimer: *I am not financially affiliated with Aplia and receive no monetary benefit from requiring this material.*

Principles of Macroeconomics Entry Survey

Please fill out the information below. None of this information will be used to determine your grade. Your final grade is determined solely by the quality of the work you do in this course. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Name: _____

Student ID: _____

1. Year in school
 Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Other _____
2. What is your gender?
 Male Female
3. Is this course a required course?
 Yes No
4. How many hours are you expecting to put into this course per week?
 < 1 hour 1 – 3 hours 3 – 5 hours 5+ hours
5. Are you currently working whilst you attend school?
 Yes No
6. At present, do you have any interest in pursuing any economics courses beyond this course?
 Yes No Maybe
7. What are your expectations in this course – as in what do you hope to gain from this course?

8. Any other comments you would like to share at this point.

Thanks again for your co-operation.

Please tear off this sheet and turn in to the Professor at the end of the class